REMARKS

Claims 12-31 remain in this application.

Since the examiner did not reject claim 30 based on prior art or any other basis, it is assumed that he meant to allow claim 30. Such implied allowance is acknowledged with gratitude.

By this amendment, the language of claims 12, 13 and 14 has been incorporated into allowable claim 15. Therefore, claims 15-20 and 24-28 should now be allowable.

Also by this amendment, claims 12-14, 16 and 18-20 have been amended by insertion of reference characters for ease of interpretation only. It is assumed that insertion of reference characters is reason to list them as **(Currently amended)**.

Regarding the rejection of claims 12-14, 21-23, 29 and 31 as anticipated by the Dombek et al. reference, applicant disagrees with the rejection for many reasons. To help understand these reasons, and to make sure that the examiner and the applicant have the same understanding of Dombek et al., the following description of Dombek et al. is provided:

The Dombek et al. reference is directed to a two stage pump in which two pistons are connected by a lost motion device. This lost motion connection is provided so that operation by hand is still possible even when the pressure gets so high that the operator cannot move the larger piston 54. Under such a high pressure situation, the operator can still move the smaller piston 56 and thus can continue pumping the pressure even higher.

By this hand pump of Dombek et al., fuel is moved into and through system 10 from tank 12, and any air in the system eventually gets pumped through the system ending up back in tank

12. As the system 12 is thus primed, the pressure therein increases as air is displaced with fuel, thereby making the operation of the hand pump more difficult with each stroke against the increasing pressure. Within the pumping chamber 52 are first piston 54 and second piston 56 disposed in a nested arrangement. The first piston being the outermost, it is slidable within the chamber. The second piston is slidable within the first piston, it has a cavity to receive plunger 49, but it does not have a thru hole, as the cavity does not extend all the way through the second piston. The pump has a handle on one end to operate the pump and increase pressure within the housing. It also has an inlet/outlet fitting (44) on the other end which feeds to line 14. The pump has a first and a second spring (62,68). The first spring (62) is disposed between an end of the housing and the first piston. The second spring is disposed between a rib (72) of the first piston (54) and the second piston (56).

The first reason why the rejection over Dombek et al. is not appropriate, is that Dombek et al. does not disclose a pressure holding valve for a fuel injection system. The device of Dombek et al. is in fact, as described above, a manually actuated pump. The only valves that are shown in the Dombek et al. reference are valves 24 which are placed separately from the pump. Neither the description nor the drawings reveal any evidence that the pump works as a valve. In fact the description of Dombek et al. clearly states that valves 24 are not included as part of the priming pump.

Second, while the device as recited in claim 12 has a first connection and a second connection, Dombek et al. has only one connection. Dombek et al. recite inlet/outlet 44 to be their only connection, whereas claim 12 recites a first connection 23 and a second connection 24.

Third, Dombek et al. does not have a closing element as recited in claim 12. The examiner indicates that element 70 of Dombek et al. is a closing element, but it is not. Dombek et al. indicates that 70 is a seal which seals between pump pistons 54 and 56. And since Dombek et al. is a pump and not a valve, the examiner's position is not tenable, particularly since 70 does not open and close anything as a **valve** closing element must do.

Moreover, claim 12 recites:

> "..... the valve comprising .....
>
> A closing element (32) operable to close the through opening ....."

Thus the closing element 32 of claim 12 is a closing element for a valve.

The only function which element 70 of Dombek et al. accomplishes is sealing between pistons 54 and 56. Also, the end wall 64 of the first piston 54 that has been interpreted by the examiner as equivalent to the valve cup of the invention does not have a through opening that can be closed by the closing element. The examiner has construed the element 70 as the closing element that is operable to close the through opening. Again, since it cannot be expressed too often, the element 70 of Dombek et al. is merely a sealing element between the two pump pistons 54 and 56. It does not possess any functionality for opening and closing the through opening as a valve closing element must do.

Even if the second piston 56, by itself or in combination with seal 70, could somehow be interpreted as a valve closing element, and applicants certainly do not believe that such an interpretation is appropriate, the examiner's arguments still would not hold true. The second piston is not operable in such a way as to **open** and close the through opening. Neither element

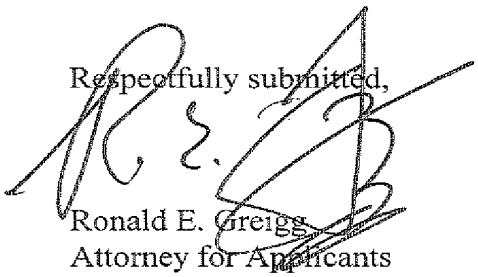
70, nor the second piston 56 **open** a through opening. Further, neither the element 70 nor the second piston 56 are prestressed by a spring so as to maintain a minimum pressure in a return of a fuel injection valve device, as is recited in claim 12.

And fourth, the examiner reads element 49 of Dombek et al. as a pressure relief device, but it is not. Element 49 of Dombek et al. is the manually operated plunger for the pump of Dombek et al. The examiner seems to have assumed that the Dombek et al. reference discloses a pressure relief device that is contained in a valve housing between the first connection and the valve cup. The rod 49 which the examiner has taken as the pressure relief device is merely an actuating device for the pump. It can in no way serve the purpose of relieving the pressure inside a pressure-holding valve. On the contrary, the plunger's only purpose is for operating the piston(s), thus increasing pressure inside the pump of Dombek et al.

Further, the rod 49 is not positioned between a first connection and a valve cup. The examiner has somehow misinterpreted the first piston of Dombek et al. as a valve cup, and the first connection as being a fitting 44. But even if the examiner's misinterpretation could be accepted, and applicant certainly does not accept such interpretation; it is still clear from Figure 2 that the rod is not positioned between these two elements as recited in claim 12.

For the above reasons, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald E. Greigg
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 31,517
Customer No. 02119

GREIGG & GREIGG, P.L.L.C.
1423 Powhatan Street
Suite One
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel. (703) 838-5500
Fax. (703) 838-5554

REG/SLS/ncr

J:\Bosch\R305588\Reply to 9-30-08 OA.wpd